

Mr. Dent said he had not been in favor of reporting this section, and had endeavored to impress his views on the committee. Compensation was due the people who had been so foully despoiled of their property, by every principle of justice. This section was not in accordance with the constitution of the United States, which said that no man's property should be taken without compensation. He was opposed to sacrificing right to expediency.

The State of Maryland had stripped the people of this property by form of law, and it was from the State that compensation was due. He could not believe that there was so little virtue in the people of Maryland that they would vote down the constitution because it left the door open to just and merited compensation. He thought the Convention might trust to the honor and manliness of the people even if this odious section was stricken out, as he hoped it yet would be. Were they to be left to trust to the puny faith of the government, which had deluded the border States into adopting its measures and then broken all its promises? That treacherous government at Washington was not to be trusted.

Mr. Marbury said this subject had been fully discussed in the last Legislature, and a large majority of the party with which he acted had recognized the right of the slaveholder to compensation from both the State and the National treasury. Wherefore then this political necessity? Why should this Convention be called to fasten this odious political wrong on the people forever? Gentlemen talked about their efforts to stay this wrong; what had they done? The gentleman from Somerset knew that he might have exhausted the eloquence of Demosthenes, and all the orators, ancient and modern, in that convention of 1864, and it would have availed no more than if he was talking to stone walls. Those men were then told that the day would come when the outraged people of the State of Maryland would in their assembled wisdom redress these wrongs. The day had come, and what had been done to redress these wrongs? The people who had been robbed did not come here as suppliants—they asked no money, but only that the hands of the Legislature should not forever be tied up from making them due award. He could not look upon this thing as a matter of policy—could